

Chapter 1 : Lesson Becoming a Child of God

Lessons concern the position and mission of being kingdom kids. Enrichment Idea: Salty vs. Unsalty You will need two pitchers of water, one with saltwater and one without salt.

Last week we discovered that the Kingdom of God is the working of God here on earth even as it is in Heaven. And here is the power of this truth the Bible tells us that God is not just with us, but through His Spirit, He lives within us and where he is so is His Kingdom! Folks, God has redeemed us He has recreated our hearts and our minds for the purpose the sole purpose of being His representatives here on Earth. In fact, it is His purpose for us to establish His Kingdom agenda right here where we are just as it has always been established in Heaven. So what does this mean to you and me? What does being a Kingdom representative mean to you and me? Well, Bible says in Matthew Why would Jesus describe the process of being a part of the Kingdom by saying we have to be like little children? Well, to find the answer to this question, I asked my 8 year old theologian son and he gave me some great insight on this. He said that he thought the reason was because children are cooler than adults. He also said, children just like to laugh and have fun and God liked that. But maybe he has something there. Because, the Kingdom of God should be a Kingdom of celebration. That reminds me of the penciled drawing that I saw of Jesus. Maybe some of you have seen this. It is called the laughing Jesus. And it is great. It has Jesus surrounded by children and his head is thrown back in laughter. I think that is a great picture of the Kingdom of Heaven. Well this week I ran across some prayers prayed by children listen to the honesty in some of these. They will make you laugh! I never asked for anything before. Honest, you can look it up. You really made up some good ones. Oh yeah, I like the walking on water too! How far back do you go? What do you say? That was really cool! And if we do if we repent and turn from our selfish ways, our sin then in that moment, literally become connected to that great Kingdom. Not of this world but of the Kingdom of God. The dominion or authority in Kingdom life that God wants to reinstate within us is for victorious, fruitful living and for the overthrow of hellish powers, not for gaining control of others or for serving our own interests.

Chapter 2 : Elizabeth II - Wikipedia

Becoming Kingdom Kids by Kelly Cannon, Sharron Oyer, Jean Torjussen starting at \$ Becoming Kingdom Kids has 1 available editions to buy at Alibris.

Confidence is hard to come by. Even as adults, we tend to fake confidence to get a job done or make a good impression when we sometimes are just not feeling "it". Encourage independence Independence is a good thing. As much as some of us might like that our kids still need us for things, we also know the importance of having kids that can take care of tasks or problems on their own. I recently met with a security and self-defense team that described the right times and ways to teach kids how to do simple tasks that might include some possible danger, such as answering the door or checking the mailbox. This team highly encouraged walking through these tasks with your children and also, setting boundaries and communicating with parents. So let them have the opportunities to take on assignments, tasks, and projects on their own. Allow Mistakes and Failures This one is tough. So along with encouraging independence, comes allowing your kids to inevitably fail or make a mistake. For example, your son decides to offer his services as a pool skimmer for the summer. He sets his prices and begins to bring in some profit from skimming pools in your neighborhood. You could hold all of his money and regulate how he spends it and where. OR you can advise him on a budget and savings and ultimately, let him make the choices. He may follow your advice or he may spend it all in one place and then probably regret it later. Yeah, that was a mistake and he may feel a little like he failed at his business, but we have to learn to redefine failure. It can be a learning opportunity and chance to find courage and confidence. Check out this incredible video of Spanx CEO, Sara Blakely, who talks about how her dad taught her the positive aspects of failure. Foster Creativity Creativity is intelligence having fun. This happens with my daughter and me constantly. There is usually no right or wrong in these instances, but sometimes I forget what a huge role creativity can play in how kids see themselves and the world. Creativity can open up so many possibilities and keep their brains moving and growing. Inspire to do the Scary Things Fear is not of God. Usually, we just learn to hide it or hopefully, overcome it. We have the tools to help our kids overcome their fears, but it requires us being able to let go of the reigns a little and do some nudging ok, sometimes A LOT of nudging! I tell them three things. This is a safe place for mistakes, 2. There is no such thing as "perfect" and 3. Most of the time, it just takes doing the things we are afraid of to help us deal with and overcome fear. It never just goes away. But overcoming our biggest fears, time and time again, can truly build confidence. This is so true for me because I searched online and in stores for weeks to make sure that I got the best deal on a pair of cool shoes that I paid for with my very own money. This may not be true for you, but you might remember what you bought with your first paycheck or how you put back money to save for a specific need or want. There is just something about working hard, bringing in a paycheck, and being able to provide for yourself that boosts your self-esteem and confidence. Kids may not be able to find a job where they "provide" for themselves, but they can still feel the confidence that comes from making a little bit of money because they had to put in the time, effort, and maybe even sweat. Also, the knowledge of business and a work atmosphere builds confidence for jobs they will have in the future. Provide Opportunities for Problem Solving These opportunities will probably come to you in the form of an argument your child is having with a friend or maybe even a problem with a teacher. Sometimes our first response can be to confront the friend or teacher ourselves to settle the score, but most always, that is not the best response. Our children have the capabilities to work out problems with their friends themselves, and usually in their own time. They can even meet with their teachers to talk it out and find solutions to struggles and misunderstandings. Provide encouragement to work things out on their own in a manner that glorifies God and prioritizes the utmost respect. The skills gained from solving problems on their own will benefit them for the rest of their lives. Confidence can be found and refined in solving problems on our own. What actions do you think are important to help your kids have confidence?

Chapter 3 : 6 Keys to Building Confidence in Your Kids - The Kingdom Code

Becoming Kingdom Kids by Kelly Cannon, Sharron Oyer, Jean Torjussen starting at \$ Becoming Kingdom Kids has 1 available editions to buy at Half Price Books Marketplace.

Elizabeth on the cover of Time magazine , April Elizabeth was born at The two princesses were educated at home under the supervision of their mother and their governess , Marion Crawford. Winston Churchill described Elizabeth when she was two as "a character. She has an air of authority and reflectiveness astonishing in an infant. Although her birth generated public interest, she was not expected to become queen, as the Prince of Wales was still young. Many people believed he would marry and have children of his own. Later that year, Edward abdicated , after his proposed marriage to divorced socialite Wallis Simpson provoked a constitutional crisis. If her parents had had a later son, she would have lost her position as first-in-line, as her brother would have been heir apparent and above her in the line of succession. As in , when her parents had toured Australia and New Zealand, Elizabeth remained in Britain, since her father thought her too young to undertake public tours. And the King will never leave. We know, every one of us, that in the end all will be well. Elizabeth later said in a rare interview, "We asked my parents if we could go out and see for ourselves. I remember we were terrified of being recognised I remember lines of unknown people linking arms and walking down Whitehall , all of us just swept along on a tide of happiness and relief. Proposals, such as appointing her Constable of Caernarfon Castle or a patron of Urdd Gobaith Cymru the Welsh League of Youth , were abandoned for several reasons, including fear of associating Elizabeth with conscientious objectors in the Urdd at a time when Britain was at war. Home Secretary , Herbert Morrison supported the idea, but the King rejected it because he felt such a title belonged solely to the wife of a Prince of Wales and the Prince of Wales had always been the heir apparent. During the tour, in a broadcast to the British Commonwealth on her 21st birthday, she made the following pledge: After another meeting at the Royal Naval College in Dartmouth in July , Elizabeth " though only 13 years old " said she fell in love with Philip, and they began to exchange letters. He was a prince without a home or kingdom. They received 2, wedding gifts from around the world. One month earlier, the King had issued letters patent allowing her children to use the style and title of a royal prince or princess, to which they otherwise would not have been entitled as their father was no longer a royal prince. The children remained in Britain. When she toured Canada and visited President Harry S. Truman in Washington, D. Philip broke the news to the new queen. The Duke complained, "I am the only man in the country not allowed to give his name to his own children. The Queen asked them to wait for a year; in the words of Martin Charteris, "the Queen was naturally sympathetic towards the Princess, but I think she thought " she hoped " given time, the affair would peter out. If Margaret had contracted a civil marriage, she would have been expected to renounce her right of succession. They divorced in ; she did not remarry. The proposal was never accepted and the following year France signed the Treaty of Rome , which established the European Economic Community , the precursor to the European Union. Lord Mountbatten claimed the Queen was opposed to the invasion, though Eden denied it. Eden resigned two months later. Lord Salisbury and Lord Kilmuir , the Lord Chancellor , consulted the British Cabinet , Winston Churchill , and the Chairman of the backbench Committee , resulting in the Queen appointing their recommended candidate: In a magazine, which he owned and edited, [82] Lord Altrincham accused her of being "out of touch". On the same tour, she opened the 23rd Canadian Parliament , becoming the first monarch of Canada to open a parliamentary session. She is impatient of the attitude towards her to treat her as She loves her duty and means to be a Queen. Her first royal walkabout, meeting ordinary members of the public, took place during a tour of Australia and New Zealand in Over 20 countries gained independence from Britain as part of a planned transition to self-government. In , however, the Rhodesian Prime Minister, Ian Smith , in opposition to moves towards majority rule, declared unilateral independence from Britain while still expressing "loyalty and devotion" to Elizabeth. Although the Queen dismissed him in a formal declaration, and the international community applied sanctions against Rhodesia, his regime survived for over a decade. She declined, saying she would not interfere in decisions reserved by the Constitution of Australia for the governor-general. Parties and events took place throughout

the Commonwealth, many coinciding with her associated national and Commonwealth tours. Trudeau said in his memoirs that the Queen favoured his attempt to reform the constitution and that he was impressed by "the grace she displayed in public" and "the wisdom she showed in private". Police later discovered the shots were blanks. The year-old assailant, Marcus Sarjeant , was sentenced to five years in prison and released after three. New Zealand Security Intelligence Service documents declassified in revealed that year-old Christopher John Lewis fired a shot with a . Two years into his sentence, he attempted to escape a psychiatric hospital in order to assassinate Prince Charles , who was visiting the country with Diana, Princess of Wales , and Prince William. In a serious lapse of security, assistance only arrived after two calls to the Palace police switchboard. The sources of the rumours included royal aide Michael Shea and Commonwealth Secretary-General Shridath Ramphal , but Shea claimed his remarks were taken out of context and embellished by speculation. As monarch of Fiji , Elizabeth supported the attempts of the Governor-General , Ratu Sir Penaia Ganilau , to assert executive power and negotiate a settlement. Coup leader Sitiveni Rabuka deposed Ganilau and declared Fiji a republic.

Auto Suggestions are available once you type at least 3 letters. Use up arrow (for mozilla firefox browser alt+up arrow) and down arrow (for mozilla firefox browser alt+down arrow) to review and enter to select.

Some children have just one family. And there are other children that have more than one family because one or both of their parents were divorced and they married someone else. Some adults have a family with just one parent because their father or mother might have died or their parent is divorced. Sometimes children are adopted into a new family. And there are some children who live in a house with many children we call an orphanage because both their parents might have died and there was no one else to take care of them Families can come in all different ways. But no matter what family we are part of we can be part of a second family at the same time. That is very special and so all of us can have two families. In another story, a very religious man by the name of Nicodemus came to Jesus very late at night. He asked Jesus how he could become part of the Kingdom of God. If you remember that story Nicodemus did not understand this. He asked Jesus how anyone could go back and be born all over again. It sounded silly to Nicodemus that a person could be born like a newborn baby again. Jesus said you had to be born physically and spiritually. Zacchaeus said he was sorry for his sin and taking extra money from people when he collected taxes. When you study about people all over the world you find that so many people try to work their way to God. In some religions they make sacrifices to idols of stone or wood. Other religions have rules that people must follow like praying several times a day. Still in other religions leaders tell them the only way to heaven is to give money and do good deeds. People work their whole life trying to work their way to heaven but the Bible tells us there is nothing we can do, there are not enough good things we can do to have our sin forgiven. In the Bible book of Romans 3: But the Bible also tells us all we need to do is tell God that we are sorry for our sin and disobedience and ask God to forgive us. A Bible verse in the book of I John 1: It is that easy and it does not matter if we are young or older, God is just waiting for us to ask Him to forgive us and take us into His family. Just talk to God and tell God you are sorry of disobeying and tell God you want Him to forgive you and He does. Once you pray and ask God you are then part of His family.

Chapter 5 : Children Of The Kingdom Sermon by Chuck Hill, Matthew - calendrierdelascience.com

When we become citizens of God's Kingdom, it means that we voluntarily align ourselves with a new government and a new country, embracing the language, its ideals and its values. God's Constitution of the Kingdom is very explicit regarding our citizenship.

Just read this page to get the hang of what we are doing, leave a comment, and then jump in. OK, Kingdom Woman Kindreds! That will let me know you are HERE! Be sure and respond to the posts with a comment! Also, by doing your part in sharing your answers here, you will be actively participating in the journey and the experience will be richer for you. You are not alone! Your voice comment matters! When you post a comment today, identify yourself by: THEN respond to your reflection questions. Chrystal, Dallas, Texas, Solo, Answer 1, 2, etc! Once you comment for yourself, feel free to reply to any comment that you see in the thread. If you were on the stage at Madison Square Gardens standing in front of thousands and thousands of people, and you could perform and perform well, any song in the world, what song would that be? This can be serious or ridiculous. In ten words or less, describe your present season. What comes to mind when you think about the life you are currently living? Here are a few ideas to get your juices flowing: This can be someone you know personally or not. Pick at least one verse from that same chapter and memorize it! Stay tuned, more details and directions to come! Get a pen that you love! Get ready to mark up your book or write in a journal! Feel free to use the graphic below to share the One Month Journey with others! The Blog " The main source of information for the journey is on the blog. Please pour your heart out there. I read every single one. Each week you will be invited to share your journey in the comment section. I hope you do! Social Media " Make it easy for me to find you! As you share quotes from the book on Facebook or Twitter or maybe even take, make, and share graphic images on Pinterest or Instagram, be sure and use the hashtag KingdomWoman. This way, we can find each other as we share! The Book " We are reading and reflecting on Kingdom Woman.

Chapter 6 : Citizenship Pt Becoming a Kingdom Citizen

"The Dream Daughter: A Novel" by Diane Chamberlain "Exciting and heartfelt Chamberlain expertly blends the time-travel elements with the wonderful story of a mother's love and the depths of sacrifice she makes for her child.

Receiving the Kingdom of God as a Little Child "Verily I say unto you, Whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child, he shall not enter therein. Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven. The sinful world is saturated with worldly pride, stubbornness and fleshly lust 1st John 2: They want nothing to do with the holy God of the Bible. The most wicked and vile sinners in the world are those who lust after money. America is one of the greediest nations on earth and, sadly, most of its citizens are going to burn in Hell. The world is filled today with superstar celebrities and famous wealthy people; but they have sold their souls to the Devil and will hopelessly die in their sins They have forgotten the God of the Bible in their sinful pride. They are stiffnecked , ungrateful and stubborn. We are guilty sinners, deserving of Hellfire Romans 3: Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power. Any child knows exactly what Romans 1: Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night sheweth knowledge. There is no speech nor language, where their voice is not heard. Children are very honest and humble. Adults on the other hand, because of love for sin and a rebellious attitude towards diving moral Authority, continually place God on trial. The bottom line is that everyone has a choice to make, i. Jesus came to earth as the Godhead incarnate Colossians 2: Only by humbling oneself as a child to trust upon Jesus as the Christ i. It is a matter of trust, i.

Chapter 7 : Unless you become like children - Mt 18()

Paul Tripp answers the question, "How do children become kingdom minded?" My job as a parent is not only to teach my children these are the things you're supposed to do, but teach my children that they're supposed to be apart of God's mission as well.

Jesus says something of the same thing to Peter, but much more directly. How do we develop Kingdom thinking? This brief look at the an encounter between Peter and Jesus might give us some clues. Developing A Kingdom Mindset Matthew You are a stumbling block to me; you do not have in mind the things of God, but the things of men. Or what can a man give in exchange for his soul? We have looked primarily at the words and actions of Jesus that demonstrated the kingdom of God. We have seen Jesus teach about the kingdom. Matthew in chapters , records the Sermon on the Mount. In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus begins to lay out the ethical and spiritual distinctives of the Kingdom. These are characteristics that distinguish the Kingdom of God, which he has come to both announce and inaugurate, from the current practice of first century Judaism. We have seen him demonstrate what life will be like in the Kingdom of God by healing the paralyzed man by first forgiving his sins. We have seen Jesus call disciples to follow him, to learn from him, and to embrace life in this Kingdom, which will stand in contrast to the world in which he and they now live. We have seen Jesus describe the Kingdom of God using parables like the sower and the soils, the wheat and the weeds, and the treasure in the field. We have seen Jesus demonstrate the abundance of the Kingdom of Heaven by feeding 5,, and then on another occasion by feeding 4, people. We have seen the King of the Kingdom, Jesus, exercise his dominion over the created elements by walking on water. And last week we saw Jesus prod the disciples to verbalize who he really was. But an acknowledgment is one thing for even Satan recognized who Jesus was. No, Jesus needed for the disciples to do much more than acknowledge him as the Christ. His teaching and demonstration of the Kingdom was to lead them to a point of decision, a point of commitment that heretofore they had not made. I am sure the disciples were intrigued with Jesus. I am sure they found his teaching amazing in its clarity and stunning in its restatement of the Law. But, they needed to do more. They needed to decide for themselves not only that Jesus was unique, but that they would link their lives with his, that they would follow him not only on the dusty roads of Galilee, but in the way they lived their lives, too. What does that have to do with us today? But, is that enough? It is the point at which Jesus pushes the disciples past the stage of acknowledgement, past demonstrations of the Kingdom, to a point at which they must make a decision regarding their place in the Kingdom themselves. Peter, as we might suspect, gives Jesus that opportunity. He is headed to Jerusalem and there he will have a showdown, a power encounter with the religious rulers of first century Judaism. But Jesus recognizes that the Roman Empire, with the governor of Judea, Pontius Pilate as its representative, will only be carrying out the desires of the leading religious leaders of his day. Jesus will be dealt with as they have already dealt with others who challenged their authority and power – they will marginalize him, and failing that, they will eliminate him. So, we see repeated attempts to discredit Jesus. They come at him with trick questions; with implications that he and his disciples are not following the Law, the Torah; and, finally, with charges of blasphemy and speaking against the Temple. The disciples have witnessed this tension between Jesus, whose popularity is the only thing that has kept him from the hands of the Pharisees, Saducees and other religious authorities. Matthew says that Peter takes Jesus aside. But, Peter takes Jesus aside to privately chastise his own teacher. She was a kind and gentle teacher, who mothered her fourth graders with great care and concern. But fifth grade was an entirely different story. My fifth grade teacher was Mrs. Cooksey believed it was her duty to take innocent fourth graders and prepare them for the rough-and-tumble work of junior high school. Cooksey was determined to make us grow up, fast and in proper form. Needless to say, she did not read Little House on the Prairie to us, or anything else for that matter. To her credit, Mrs. Cooksey was a good teacher. I learned a great deal in her class because I had to. But she was stern, no-nonsense, and definitely not our mother. I would no more have contradicted Mrs. Cooksey than I would have the principal of the school himself. So, when Peter takes it upon himself to set Jesus straight, he at least has the consideration to take Jesus aside and rebuke him privately. After he had Jesus

alone, I am sure Peter repeated what he thought Jesus had said. Something like this, I imagine “ Peter: Did I hear you right? Do you think that when we get to Jerusalem that the religious leaders are going to give you a hard time? No, this will never happen to you! What match would they be for a fisherman, or a bunch of fishermen for that matter? But unfortunately for Peter, Jesus response comes as a complete surprise. Get out of my sight, quit blocking my way on the road to Jerusalem. All they know is power and force and violence and threats and intimidation. You need to think like you belong to the Kingdom of Heaven. Peter has failed to grasp that what Jesus is about is not bringing in the Kingdom of God like the religious leaders of his day, by collaborating with the most powerful military juggernaut on earth, the Roman Empire. Jesus is again telling the disciples how different life is in the Kingdom of God, and how Kingdom living requires Kingdom thinking. I also imagine that Jesus has emphatically made his point with Peter, so much so that the firm and commanding tone of his voice has already gotten their attention. Jesus must have turned and addressed them all: That is definitely not the way the world thinks. First, Jesus might have pointed to a man hanging on a cross to issue his challenge to them. So, the image might have been graphically before them. In other words, the more we try to hold on to our lives, the more we seek to save ourselves, the more we operate as this sad world operates, the less chance we have of actually finding life, of being the people that God created us to be. If Jesus is not worthy of our lives, then we are not thinking Kingdom thoughts. If we gain the whole world, and here I think Jesus meant all that the present life in this existence has to offer “ fame, money, material possessions, friends, family, and so on “ but have failed to understand that all of that is temporary, fleeting a vapor as the writer of Ecclesiastes put it then we have failed to understand the purpose for which God has placed us on this earth. Kingdom thinking is not conventional wisdom. Mother Teresa who started a home for the dying, so those dying in the streets of India could die surrounded by those who loved them. She captures our imagination because we would not do what she did. We might start a hospital to help cure them, or give funds to those who build houses, but those who are dying are dying anyway, why waste time and attention on them? And, that is the difference in our conventional thinking and Kingdom thinking. So, how do we develop a Kingdom mindset? First, by realizing that the life and teaching of Jesus is the basis for the way we live our lives. What I think Jesus means is that your reward will be based on what decision you have made, what you have done, in order to live your life by Kingdom values. And, the first thing you must do in order to think Kingdom thoughts is to let your life be transformed by the King of that Kingdom. Secondly, we must realize that there are times, quite a few of them actually, when the words of Jesus and the thinking of this world system in which we find ourselves will not agree. Our decision then has to be to stay with Jesus. Against the opinions of our friends, our family, our political party, and our neighbors. Finally, we must remember that the Kingdom of God has already begun. We are not waiting for death to usher us into the Kingdom. The Spirit of God has already done that when by the mystery of God we were, as Paul said, transferred from the Kingdom of darkness into the Kingdom of light. We must admit things have gone terribly wrong in this world. Without faith in Christ, without a commitment to a different way to live, one would have to despair for the future. But, there is another way to think. Not the way that Peter was thinking. But a new way to think. If you want to enter the Kingdom, learn to think like the King.

Chapter 8 : How to Become a Child of God - Life, Hope & Truth

That corresponds to some other words of Jesus found in Matthew's Gospel: "If you do not change your hearts and become like children, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven" (Matthew). A child trusts without reflecting.

But the Bible shows that not everyone will become a child of God. To receive this awesome gift, what is God looking for in us? What is a child of God? Do not touch what is unclean, and I will receive you. The apostles understood this. God wants us to be His sons and daughters. What an amazing objective to work toward! God wants to welcome us into His family. However, God will not give this awesome gift to just anyone. God has to be sure of us—sure of our love for Him, sure that we will obey Him and be faithful to Him through thick and thin. God created everyone with free moral agency, the ability to choose. He wants us to choose the way that brings benefits to us and those around us—the way that develops His righteous character. He does not want us to choose the way that makes us and those around us miserable. So God will not accept anyone into His family who may decide he or she no longer needs to obey God, and who may choose to go his or her own way. Trust plays an enormous part in this process. Before giving us eternal life on the God-plane level of life, God must know that He can eternally trust us percent. God is not real to them. In other words, He is a mystery. If we are to become children of God, we need to know what God is like. First, God is our Creator. He is the Creator of the universe and, of course, of human beings. Why did He do this? Because God is also the great Giver. His whole nature is based on the concept of giving rather than getting. And it was in His power to give the greatest gift of all: To God, the well-being of His creation is of paramount importance. But selfishness is the way of the world: His character consists of justice, fairness and mercy. In a word, we can say that God is love 1 John 4: What must we do to build a relationship with God? Jesus tells us a few basic things: In order to do these things, we really need to get to know God better and strive to become like Him. How should we go about doing this? How do we get better acquainted with anyone? We get to know someone by spending time with him or her. We spend time in conversation and in doing things together. Thus, to build a relationship with God, we need to talk to Him. We need to pray to God. God has created us; we are His potential children. It is delightful to God to hear our prayers. He appreciates having us communicate with Him, and it surely pleases Him to see us do things that help us draw closer to Him. God has promised in Matthew 7: It is called the Holy Bible. Never underestimate the importance of Bible study. It can give us insight into our Heavenly Father: We talk to God in prayer. He talks to us as we study His Word. As we talk to God and study the Bible, we will learn all sorts of things. In short, we need to meditate about them. The Bible also places emphasis on fasting. For more details on building a relationship with God, read our articles on prayer, fasting and meditation. Holy, righteous character God wants to see us seeking His perfect, holy and righteous character in order to be in His family. Righteous character is the ability to recognize and differentiate between right and wrong, and the conscious decision to do the right. The process of conversion God intends His family to be made up of children who think and act as He does. To many human beings, becoming like God seems out of reach, completely impossible! Yet that is what God wants and expects. Though we might worry that it is impossible for us to be saved, Jesus Christ tells us: When God gives us His Spirit, we receive the spiritual strength we need in order to replace our old wrong habits of selfish living with the righteous and godly way of living exemplified by the life of Jesus Christ Ephesians 4: To do this, we need to first commit our lives to God. Jesus set the scene in Mark 1: It is not just being sorry for our sins, but it is also a total change and commitment of heart to being absolutely determined to turn our lives around—be converted Acts 3: Belief is another word for faith. God wants us to have a firm belief in the sacrifice of Jesus Christ—whose blood paid for our sins—and in the gospel of the coming Kingdom of God. It is a test—it is a sign of our willingness to obey God and make a lifelong commitment to Him. Baptism represents a covenant agreement between ourselves and God, in which God agrees to give us His Spirit and make us members of His own family. In return, He wants us to place ourselves in His hands and to commit to obey His commandments. This is a total commitment of heart that must lead to a total change of life for us. From this point on, we agree to put God first and do everything with a view to pleasing Him. In our present human state, this is not easy. But after

baptism we have the Holy Spirit to help us. This is the way God works in us, converting us, shaping us, making us more like Him! Therein lies the key: God has given us a mammoth task, but He has made it possible for us to work toward becoming like Him by asking for His aid through the Holy Spirit. Let us be your guide as you spend a week discovering who God is and what He has in store for youâ€™ in this life and the next.

Chapter 9 : Kingdom Woman Wednesday #1 | Chrystal Evans Hurst

Enjoy insightful additions in each chapter of Raising Kingdom Kids from the Evans' kids themselves. Chrystal Hurst is an energetic, fun-loving "girl-next-door" who loves to encourage other women in fulfilling their full potential in Christ.

Yves I-Bing Cheng, M. At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying, "Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven? Worldly ambition Thinking of their own advancement, the disciples asked, Who then is greatest in the kingdom of heaven? This question followed closely a prediction that Jesus would die. The Lord said that He was going to be delivered into the hands of men and they will kill Him, but He will rise again on the third day Matthew Convinced that Jesus was the Messiah but not understanding how He could literally rise again, the minds of the disciples were focused exclusively on the idea that somehow He was about to set up the Messianic kingdom. Though Jesus had recently declared it impossible to follow Him except in self-renunciation Mathew You are thinking in terms of earthly glory, in terms of power, fame, wealth, honor, position. I am going in the opposite direction. I am going to an earthly death and humiliation. The disciples could not see that Jesus came, not to glorify Himself, but to humble Himself. Because that was the only way salvation could be accomplished. He reverses their perspective of greatness by this paradox: If you want to be the greatest, you have to be the least. Whoever then humbles himself as this child, he is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. His teaching is revolutionary. The outward form may change, but the essence remains the same. And we call that a revolution. You must subject yourself to others and become the least. You ascend by willingly going down. How do we go down? Jesus uses the example of a child. You humble yourself like this child. This is not to say that children are always in the habit of humbling themselves. That is not the point. The point is that we, who are already grown up, we turn back and become children again. To go back from adulthood to childhood, to lower yourself down to the level of a child when you have already become mature, that is humbling oneself. So the point is not that children are humble. It goes against all our human inclinations, against all the ambitions we had since our childhood. As a child, we always wanted to grow up. And now that we are grown up, we are told to become like children v. The humility of Christ I would like you to notice that the notion of humility, of self-abnegation, of going down rather than going up, was already there in the previous section, in Matthew When they came to Capernaum, the collectors of the half-shekel tax went up to Peter and said, "Does not your teacher pay the tax? From whom do kings of the earth take toll or tribute? From their sons or from others? Payment could be made in person at the Passover festival in Jerusalem, but collections were also made in many other places. Otherwise I doubt that Peter would have answered a question concerning his Master based on assumptions. Jesus used this situation to ask Peter a question. Do they collect taxes from their own children? Or do they collect taxes from strangers, i. The kings of the earth do not collect taxes from their family members because to do so would be to tax themselves. To tax their children is like giving them money with one hand, and taking it back with the other. They tax other people, not their own household. Peter, of course, knew that. Taxes are not required of them. No human could claim that title. The reference must be to God. God owns the temple. The obvious reference in context is to Jesus Himself, whose payment of tax was the subject of the question. But the plural indicates that the disciples, the children of the kingdom, also share in this privilege. They are free from the burden of the temple tax. Although the children are not obligated to pay taxes to their Father, yet Jesus is willing to pay it. He did not want people to think that He despised the temple and its service, and thus provoke needless opposition. We are back to this matter of humbling oneself. Do you know that My Father owns the temple? And you are asking Me to pay half a shekel? And you will also pay the tax. Though He was the Son of God, He humbled Himself to this level where He was willing to stand with all the others who are taxable and be taxed along with them. Notice also the extent to which He has humbled Himself. He who was the Son of God, by whom all things were created, did not have half a shekel to pay the temple tax. Most likely, the treasurer Judas was not present at the time. He was the one who carried the bag in which the disciples put their money together John In his absence, there was no money to pay the tax with. This is the reason why He had to ask Peter to catch a fish. In the first fish that you bring up, you will find in its mouth a shekel. Take it and use it to pay My tax and yours. It seems that

He did something He normally does not do, i. And give that money to the tax collectors. The tax would have been paid. But think about it. Since the sons are free, the Father will pay the tax. God will provide that coin in the mouth of the fish to pay it. And He made His point without causing any offence. He knew that the first fish that came up would have a coin in its mouth. That truly is remarkable. And yet, the Son of God humbled Himself to the place where He did not even have the money to pay the temple tax. They did not understand the kingdom of God. You are so dull spiritually! I think I am going to dismiss you. I have been trying to teach you all this time the values of the kingdom by word and by example. Look at this child here. The greatest in the kingdom of God is the person who humbles himself like this child. Seek to get in. Not only are childlike people the greatest in the kingdom; only childlike people get into the kingdom. Thus what seems to be at first a piece of valuable moral advice i. For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. The use of that expression here in Matthew Was Jesus then suggesting that their position as disciples remained uncertain? There is no room for complacency, even for those who are in the faith. If they continue to pursue the path of secular greatness, if they do not change direction, there is a real possibility that they will never get into the kingdom. They were on the broad road which leads to destruction and they had to turn themselves completely. They had to head in a new direction by taking the narrow road, by becoming like children. It implies a complete change of attitude. It is actually equivalent to repent. There must be a change in our attitude with regard to evil. We must turn away from sin. This is what Paul means in 1Corinthians He says, In evil be babes. Little children do not understand the intricate ways of evil.